

May 18, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are very concerned about this issue of labeling irradiated food. Radiation causes cancer and other serious diseases and the public has a right to know if their food is poisoned with irradiation and that the result of eating irradiated food is serious health risks. Irradiated foods from the U.S. also affect people of other countries, as some of our irradiated food is exported to other countries. As for irradiated meat, if the animal farming industry operated with integrity, treated the animals humanely, raised without drugs and in decent living conditions, meat would not have to be irradiated. As for fruit and vegetables, if they are raised organically--the way nature intended us to eat them, they would also not need to be irradiated.

The FDA has been so concerned with the poisons caused by cigarettes and our welfare regarding legal and illegal drugs, that it is letting the food industry commit gross injustices of the same magnitude and consequence. These contradictory and hypocritical policies lead one to wonder the reasons for the FDA's blatant disregard of the food industry's harmful practices. I would like to see the FDA be consistent in its policies and act responsibly and with genuine concern for our welfare regarding both the food and drug industries. Just as the cigarette companies are bearing the wrath of the nation for its failure to tell the whole truth about cigarettes, so might the FDA find itself in contempt of millions for failing to provide the full truth about our food. People are demanding their rights make informed choices about their health and their food purchases. I hope the FDA supports these rights.

Concerning this issue, please support measures, bills, legislation, and other actions that ensure that food is labeled if irradiated including that the consequences of irradiation are potential serious health problems, and that there is no expiration on this requirement of labeling.

Thank you for your concern and responsible action concerning this issue.

Sincerely,



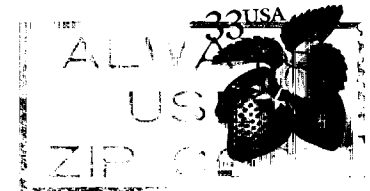
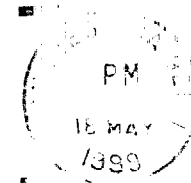
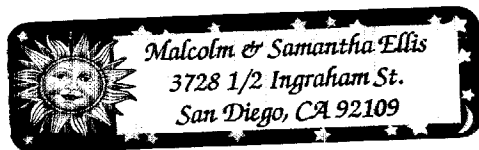
Samantha Ellis
Concerned Citizen



Malcolm Ellis
Frustrated Citizen

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